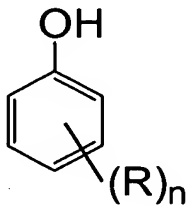
CLAIMS

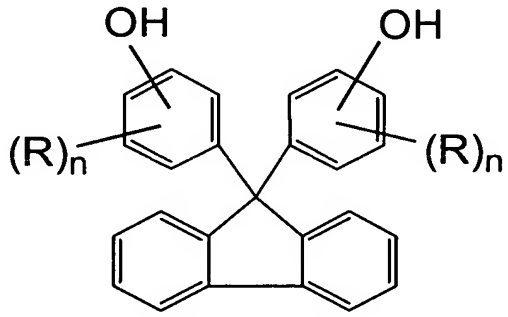
1. A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a mercaptocarboxylic acid and a hydrochloric acid to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II):



(II)

wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the mercaptocarboxylic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid [the mercaptocarboxylic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1/0.1 to 1/3, and an extractant

is added to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and a crystallization solvent is added to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises phenol or a C_{1-4}alkylphenol.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises a 2-C_{1-4}alkylphenol or a 3-C_{1-4}alkylphenol.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid [fluorenone/the mercaptocarboxylic acid] is 1/0.01 to 1/0.5.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid [fluorenone/the mercaptocarboxylic acid] is 1/0.05 to 1/0.3, and the proportion (weight ratio) of the mercaptocarboxylic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid [the mercaptocarboxylic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1/0.3 to 1/2.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II) comprises a 9,9-bis(C_{1-4}alkylhydroxyphenyl)fluorene.

7. A method for producing a 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C_{1-4}alkylphenyl)fluorene, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a 2-C_{1-4}alkylphenol to a condensation reaction in coexistence with β-mercaptopropionic acid and a hydrochloric acid, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of β-mercaptopropionic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid [the mercaptopropionic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1/0.1 to 1/3, and an extractant is added to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and a crystallization solvent is added to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.